

The protesters asserted that fraud nudged Mr. Ter-Petrosian over the 50 percent mark in the election, allowing him to avoid a runoff in Armenia's first presidential election since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Government troops dispersed the crowd by firing in the air and beating protesters on Wednesday, and a state newspaper reported today that a policeman and a civilian were killed.

In a television address this morning that opened with pictures of the protest, Mr. Ter-Petrosian condemned his rivals and banned unauthorized public gatherings. Citing the strife in neighboring Georgia and Azerbaijan since the Soviet collapse, Mr. Ter-Petrosian suggested that he was the only barrier between calm and chaos in Armenia.

"Can it possibly be that the mistakes of our immediate neighbors have taught us nothing, or did we have to feel this on our own skin"? Mr. Ter-Petrosian asked. "I warned you about this danger, the danger of fascism from one group of mentally ill people who wanted to rule over you."

Within an hour, troops stormed into an opposition party office, beat up and arrested eight people, according to a Reuters reporter who witnessed the incident.

At the same time, soldiers fired live ammunition into the air near the Opera House, an opposition gathering place. Men booed and women screamed as soldiers and armed men in plainclothes pursued, beat and arrested several bystanders.

Pro-Government Members of Parliament beat up six opposition members when they entered a morning emergency session. The opposition politicians were then arrested by Interior Ministry troops.

Government officials said the deputies and some other opposition figures would be tried in what they are calling an attempted coup.

Near the concentrations of Government troops, residents were openly bitter, angry and frightened. Uniformed soldiers and men in black leather or denim jackets roamed these areas, slapping, kicking or beating seemingly any Armenian who inquired in less than polite tones about the action.

"This is a nightmare," said Vartan Petrossian, a musician who was strolling with his wife to buy some fish. "This has happened to our neighbors, but how can this happen in Armenia"? I don't want a government that splits in my face."

Another man, who did not want to give his name, asserted: "They are worse than the Communists. What kind of government do we have that keeps power this way?"

In the sprawling flea market near the Razdan Soccer Stadium, a dozen merchants expressed sympathy with the opposition. But they voiced dismay that the opposition would risk disorder in a republic that until now has been spared it.

The ferocity of the crackdown has perplexed diplomats who generally admire Mr. Ter-Petrosian, who rose to power in a wave of nationalism that began here in 1988 and once had been jailed with Mr. Manukian, then a close ally.

It has been hard for some diplomats to reconcile the harsh local ruler with a President who is moderate on other matters like seeking better relations with Turkey.

"What has surprised me is that the Government is doing nothing to sound conciliatory," a Western diplomat said today of the crackdown. "They just sent out the attack dogs." •

TRIBUTE TO BILL MONROE

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a legend in Bluegrass

music. Bill Monroe, the father of Bluegrass music and a member of Nashville Tennessee's Grand Ole Opry, passed away this month. He was a national treasure whose talents spanned several generations and influenced many musical talents.

Bill Monroe had a simple upbringing. While his formal education ended with the third or fourth grade, he had of such great musical talent that he was credited with founding an American music form. Bluegrass music was born when Bill Monroe took the ingredients of what had come before him and mixed them with his emotions, acoustic talent, and mandolin playing skills.

Monroe and his brothers, Charlie and Birch Monroe, performed together for several years and made their radio debut in 1927. Later, Bill struck out on his own, forming his own Bluegrass band and joining the Grand Ole Opry in 1939. Monroe's success with the mandolin in Bluegrass music influenced other musicians to include that instrument. In time it became an essential instrument to Bluegrass music.

Mr. President, over the years Monroe's band went through many changes. Band members moved on and new talents were brought in. At its peak in the 1940's, Monroe's band remained a stronghold in the music industry. Though rock 'n' roll quickly took center stage and pushed aside the sound of Bluegrass, Monroe's genius left its mark on the music industry.

The influence of Bill Monroe and his mandolin tunes can be seen in rock 'n' roll, as well as country music. The "King of Rock 'N' Roll," Elvis Presley, was heavily influenced by the music of Bill Monroe, and even recorded Monroe's "Blue Moon of Kentucky" on his first album. Buddy Holly was one of Bill Monroe's greatest fans and Bluegrass contributed to many of his songs. Country music has also been influenced by Bill Monroe. Ricky Skaggs grew up listening to Bluegrass music and was a young fan of Monroe. The music of Hank Williams is also influenced by the Bluegrass great. Bill Monroe's music and spirit has become a part of our culture.

Mr. President, it is important that we remember Bill Monroe as an artist and a contributor to our Nation's culture. He influenced the lives of so many young artists and his music and talent live on today. He will be missed, but never forgotten. •

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL WALKER, RN

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding American health care hero. Ms. Gail Walker is a registered nurse and the executive director of the Hamakua Health Center in Honokaa, HI. She was recently honored by the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program for her outstanding commitment to providing residents of the Hamakua area with continuing access to health care. She was 1 of 10 health care heroes se-

lected from a national pool of 720 candidates and the recipient of a \$100,000 award for her community cause. This is truly an outstanding life-time achievement.

Ms. Walker was born in Honokaa, HI and raised on a cattle ranch in Kukaiaua, a community just east of Honokaa, where her father worked as a cowboy and mechanic. Her mother is a retired nurse. Leaving her native home for a formal nursing education and several years of work experience, she returned to excel in the health care industry on Oahu. In 1989 she returned to her home to take the position of director of nursing at the Hamakua Medical Center. In 1991, she became the executive director of that health center, the only medical clinic in the district.

Ms. Walker quickly reorganized this clinic, instituting an appointment process, thus expediting medical care to the beneficiaries. In 1992, disaster struck the area when the Hamakua Sugar Co. filed for bankruptcy. Her friends and neighbors were without jobs and their families without support. Without the innovation, dedication, energy, and personal sacrifice of Ms. Walker these people would have lost not only their security, but their health care as well.

Ms. Walker organized a task force of local residents, politicians, and department of health representatives. Financing the clinic's operation through her own funds, she had to manage the health care of a community with one tenth of her normal budget. Over the next 2 years, Ms. Walker engineered support initiatives with the insurance companies, local banks, local private donors, and the State Legislature. This resulted in the restoration of the health care system, a life line for the 7,500 residents of this 900-square-mile poverty-stricken area.

In 1995 the State of Hawaii built a 7,000-square foot rural health clinic with a staff of 32 dedicated physicians, nurses, and support personnel in Honokaa. This new facility provides an expanded array of medical and social services never seen before in this rural, plantation community. These services include primary care, mental health, disease prevention, an indigent medication program, a nurse certification training program, and a School-to-Work Nurse's Aide Training Program for high school juniors. Ms. Walker will use funds from this award to establish a new urgent care program thus expanding the health care services in the community even further.

It is hard to overstate the benefits these services provide the community of Honokaa, HI. Ms. Walker's ability to overcome enormous obstacles to provide modern health care in her native community attests to her strength of character, her compassion, and vision. I want to personally and publicly acknowledge my sincere appreciation to Ms. Walker for her dedicated years of exemplary leadership and service to her community and to bid her a heartfelt mahalo. •